(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor;

(c) the comparative figures of such a loss during the fiscal year 2000-2001; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has initimated that the Sports Marketing Consortium was not in operation in 1999-2000. It has further informed that Doordarshan did not suffer any loss during the financial year 2000-2001.

(d) Does not arise.

Guidelines for Cable Operators Regarding Charges

1441. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more and more TV channels are becoming paid channels day by day;

(b) if so, the rates of subscription for each, at present;

(c) whether there are any rules/guidelines/instructions for cable operators regarding such charges which are hiked indiscriminately in Delhi and other places;

(d) whether Government propose to regulate these charges in consumers' interest;

(e) whether it is not possible for Government to take up the transmission of some popular private channels; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) There are no provisions in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, or the Rules framed thereunder, to regulate subscription rates of the Pay Channels or of the Cable Operators. These charges are purely a contractual affairs between the Broadcasting Companies, Cable Operators and the subscribers and the rates are market driven. The existence of a large number of competing channels itself ensures protection of viewer interest which is further reinforced by existence of laws such as Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Consumer Protection Act, in addition to the MRTP Act.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal for Government to take up transmission of any Private Channel.

Clearance of Proposals by Prasar Bharati Board

1442. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROAD CASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and constitution of Prasar Bharati Board;

(b) the basis of appointment of Members and Chief Executive;

(c) whether it is a fact that the present Chief Executive of the Prasar Bharati is keeping a number of proposals for Doordarshan programmes for several months; and

(d) the reasons for delaying several proposals on North-Eastern Region and the steps being taken to clear these proposals at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As per the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, Prasar Bharati Board shall consist of:—

(i) a Chairman;
(ii) one Executive Member;
(iii) one Member (Finance);
(iv) one Member (Personnel);
(v) six Part-time Members;
(vi) Director General (Akashvani), ex-officio;
(vii) Director General (Doordarshan), ex-officio;
(viii) one representative of the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, to be nominated by that Ministry; and
(ix) Two representatives of the employees of the Corporation, of whom one shall be elected by the engineering staff from amongst themselves and one shall be elected by the other employees from amongst themselves.

At present, the Board has the following Members:—

(i) Prof. U.R. Rao —Chairman
(ii) Shri B.G. Verghese—Part-time Member.
(iii) Lt. General M.A. Zaki (Retd.)—Part-time Member.
(iv) Prof. Vidya Nivas Mishra—Part-time Member.
(v) Shri S. Kasipandian—Part-time Member.
(vi) Additional Secretary, holding the charge of Executive Member.